

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated September 14, 2004, and the references cited therein have been carefully reviewed in light of the Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions.

As a result of the Office Action, Figure 5 is objected to for not including the legend "Prior Art". Submitted herewith for approval by the Examiner is a Replacement Sheet of drawing including the Figure 5 amended in a manner suggested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

Moreover, claims 3 and 4 are indicated by allowable if rewritten in independent form, for which, as a preliminary matter, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for an early indication of subject matter. However, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Phelan, and claims 1, 2, and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda in view of Phelan.

By the above amendments, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3, and claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, claim 1 is now believed to be allowable. Moreover, claim 4 has been amended to correct its dependency.

Claims 2 and 4-7 are dependent from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for the reasons provided in connection with claim 1.

The prior art references made of record by the Examiner have each been considered but are not believed to obviate against the allowability of the claims as amended. It is noted that none of these references have been specifically applied

by the Examiner against any of the original claims.

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated September 14, 2004, has been addressed and it is believed that claims 1, 2, and 4-7 are in condition for allowance.

Wherefore, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
DENNISON, SCHULTZ,
DOUGHERTY & MACDONALD

By: 

Amir H. Behnia
Reg. No. 50,215
(703) 837-9600 Ext. 16

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Submitted herewith for approval by the Examiner is one Replacement Sheet of drawing with proposed changes.